

ECHINUS ESCULENTUS.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Corpus subrotundum, crusta ossæa tectum, spinis mobilibus sæpius aculeatum.

Os quinquevalve subtus.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 1102.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

ECHINUS subglobosus, spinis brevibus violaceis.

ECHINUS hemisphærico-globosus ambulacris denis, areis obsolete verrucosis.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 1102.

ECHINUS subglobosus, vertice plano.

Lin. Faun. Succ. 1. 1289.

ECHINOMETRA.

Aldr. aq. p. 405. 409.

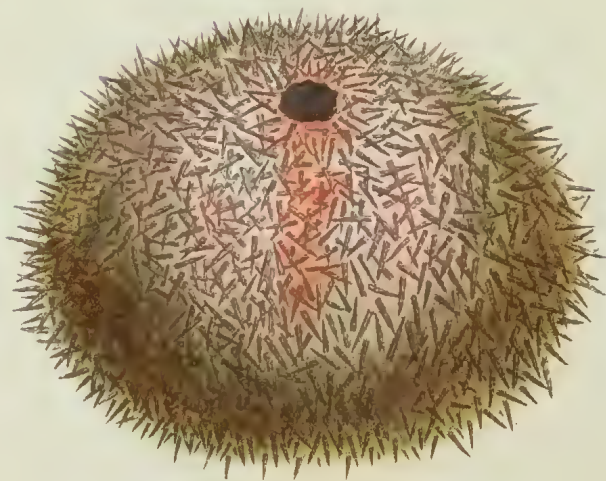
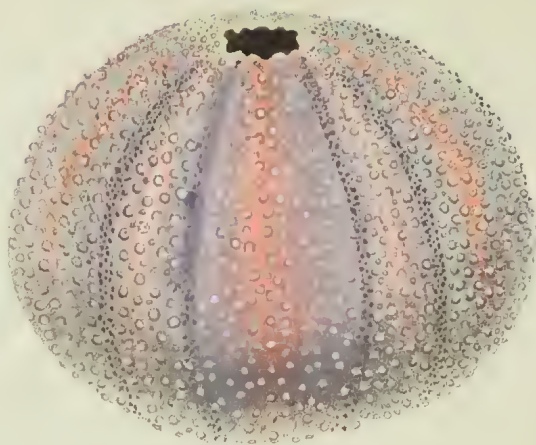
Diversa admodum specierum est tum forma tum magnitudo quas complectitur echinorum marinorum numerosissimum genus. Reperiuntur aliquæ in litoribus nostratibus; plures autem exoticæ sunt. Illam repræsentavimus quæ specierum Britannicarum vulgatio est. Constat animal ipsum e molli substantia,

substantia, corpore in segmenta, eodem fere modo quo malum aurantium, diviso. Os, superius situm, quinque continet dentes validos et acuminatos. Stomachi aliorumque viscerum fere circulatim dispositorum multa est longitudo. Fulcitur totum corpus ossium erectorum columnis in medio positis. Testam exteriorum contegunt innumeræ spinæ, mobiles, et acutæ, quæ singulæ miro modo cum tuberculis superficialiis articulatim connexæ sunt, et epidermidi testam vestienti fortiter alligatæ. Harum ope ad libitum progreditur animal; tantaque illis insita est vitalitas, ut echino ipso divulgato seu dissecto, partes ipsius testæ non raro huc illuc diffractæ obambulent. Inter spinas, quarum series in longitudinem ducta varias testæ divisiones occupat, innumera sunt foramina, totidem tentaculis supra sitis respondentia, quorum ope affigit se animal rupibus, aliisque id generis, eodem fere modo quo hirudo cauda; possunt enim tentaculorum extremitates ad libitum vel contrahi vel dilatari.

Color speciei, quam depinximus, cum spinis obtegatur, plerumque est violaceo-lividus; interdum tamen dominatur magis color subvirescens. Testa ipsa spinis et epidermide denudata, pallido-rufescit; tuberculis quibus accreverunt spinæ superficiem quasi margaritifera reddentibus. Speciem de qua loquimur in cibis lautioribus habuerunt Romani; illamque præcipue commemorat garrulus quidam Epicuri de grege porcus, quem lepide irridet Horatius.

Notandum

Notandum est, licet inter echinum marinum, et echinum vulgarem terrestrem, seu *Erinaceum Europæum* Linnæi, nulla sit vera et genuina affinitas, similem tamen esse spinarum tum internam tum externam conformationem, nisi quod erinacei velut corneæ, marini quasi calcariæ seu lapideæ sint spinæ.



THE
ESCULENT ECHINUS.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Body covered with a futured crust, generally furnished with moveable spines.

Mouth quinquevalve, placed beneath.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

SUBGLOBOSE ECHINUS, with short violet-coloured spines.

The COMMON ECHINUS, or SEA-URCHIN.

The Echini, or Sea-Urchins, as they are sometimes called, form an extremely numerous genus, of which the species differ greatly from each other in point of shape and general appearance. Several are natives of our own country, but by far the major part are exotic animals. Of the British species the most common is that represented on the plate, which is very frequently found on many of our coasts. The animal is of a soft fabric, and the body is marked as it were into a certain number of parts or divisions, not ill resembling those of an orange: the mouth is situated at the lower or under part,
and

and is armed with five strong teeth, of a sharpened form: the stomach and intestines, which are of considerable length, are disposed in a somewhat circular direction, and the whole body is supported internally by a set of upright bones or columns. On the outside of the shell are seated a prodigious number of sharp, moveable spines, curiously articulated with the tubercles on the surface, and connected by strong ligaments to the skin or epidermis with which the shell is covered. These are the instruments of motion, by the assistance of which the animal conveys itself at pleasure to any particular spot; and so tenacious are they of the vital principle, that on opening the animal, it is no very uncommon circumstance to observe the several parts of the broken shell walk off in different directions. Between the spines, disposed in a continued longitudinal series on the several divisions or regions of the shell, are an infinite number of very small foramina, communicating with an equal number of tentacula, placed above them. These are the instruments by which the creature affixes itself to any object, and stops its motion. They are possessed of a very high degree of contractile power, and are furnished at the extremities with an expansile part, which may be supposed to operate as a sphincter, or as the tail of a leech, and to fasten the animal securely to rocks, or other substances to which it chooses to adhere.

The general color of the common echinus, when covered with its spines, is a dull violet; though some-

fometimes a greenish tinge predominates. The shell itself, when deprived of its spines, is of a pale reddish tinge, the tubercles on which the spines were mounted appearing like so many pearly protuberances on the surface. The species here represented is excellent, and is considered as no unpleasant article of food. It was also a dish well known amongst the ancient Romans, and is commemorated, amongst other delicacies, by the loquacious epicure described by Horace.

It is remarkable, that though there is not the least real affinity between the two animals, yet the spines of the Echinus are of the same general structure, both internally and externally, with those of the Hedge-Hog; except that those of the Echinus are of a calcareous or strong nature, while those of the Hedge-Hog are of a horny substance.